

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of overriding ~~modifying~~ a programmable regular schedule for a controller having a user interface, the method comprising the steps of:
 providing a regular schedule for the controller;
 providing, simultaneously or sequentially, two or more schedule override choices to a user via the user interface;
 accepting a selection of one of the two or more schedule override choices from the user via the user interface; [[and]]
 ~~overriding~~ modifying temporarily the regular schedule based on the user responses provided ~~by~~ via the user interface; and
 automatically returning to the regular schedule.
2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, ~~further comprising~~
wherein the step of automatically returning to a normal program the regular schedule occurs after the selected schedule override choices ~~temporary modification~~ expires.
3. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises providing one or more natural language schedule override choices.
4. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the accepting step further comprises accepting a schedule override start time, end time or duration, and temperature.
5. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises providing a natural language schedule override choice of "Come Home Early".

6. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises providing a natural language schedule override choice of “Come Home Late”.

7. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises providing a natural language schedule override choice of “Get Up Early”.

8. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises providing a natural language schedule override choice of “Stay Up Late”.

9. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises providing a natural language schedule override choice of “Stay Home”.

10. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing step comprises providing a natural language schedule override choice of “On Vacation”.

11. (currently amended) A controller comprising:
a programmable regular schedule; and
a user interface, adapted and configured to provide two or more schedule override choices to a user, and accepting the selection of one of the two or more schedule override choices from the user;
wherein, the controller enters an ~~schedule is temporarily modified~~ override mode for overriding the regular schedule based on the user responses provided by the user interface, and the controller automatically returning to the regular schedule when the selected override choice expires.

12. (original) The controller according to claim 11, wherein the user interface comprises a touchscreen.

13. (original) The controller according to claim 11, wherein the user interface provides one or more natural language schedule override choices.

14. (original) The controller according to claim 11, wherein the user interface accepts a schedule override start time, end time and temperature.

15. (original) The controller according to claim 11, wherein the user interface provides a schedule override choice of "Come Home Early".

16. (original) The controller according to claim 11, wherein the user interface provides a schedule override choice of "Come Home Late".

17. (original) The controller according to claim 11, wherein the user interface provides a schedule override choice of "Get Up Early".

18. (original) The controller according to claim 11, wherein the user interface provides a schedule override choice of "Stay Up Late".

19. (original) The controller according to claim 11, wherein the user interface provides a schedule override choice of "Stay Home".

20. (original) The controller according to claim 11, wherein the user interface provides a schedule override choice of "On Vacation".

21. (currently amended) A controller comprising:
 a programmable regular schedule; and

a user interface, adapted and configured to provide ~~[[one]]~~ two or more schedule override choices to a user, and accepting the selection of one of the two or more schedule override choices from the user;

wherein, the ~~[[one]]~~ two or more schedule override choices includes a schedule override choice of “Come Home Early” and the regular schedule is temporarily ~~modified~~ overridden based on the user response~~[[s]]~~ provided ~~[[by]]~~ via the user interface.

22. (currently amended) A controller comprising:

a programmable regular schedule; and

a user interface, adapted and configured to provide ~~[[one]]~~ two or more schedule override choices to a user, and accepting the selection of one of the two or more schedule override choices from the user;

wherein, the one or more schedule override choices includes a schedule override choice of “Come Home Late” and the regular schedule is temporarily ~~modified~~ overridden based on the user responses provided by the user interface.

23. (currently amended) A controller comprising:

a programmable regular schedule; and

a user interface, adapted and configured to provide ~~[[one]]~~ two or more schedule override choices to a user, and accepting the selection of one of the two or more schedule override choices from the user;

wherein, the one or more schedule override choices includes a schedule override choice of “Get Up Early” and the regular schedule is temporarily ~~modified~~ overridden based on the user responses provided by the user interface.

24. (currently amended) A method of temporarily overriding ~~modifying~~ a regular programmable HVAC schedule in ~~for~~ a controller having a user interface, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a regular HVAC schedule;
providing one or more schedule override choices to a user via the user interface;
accepting ~~a one or more~~ user selection of responses to the one or more of the schedule
override choices from the user via the user interface at a first time; and
~~overriding~~ modifying temporarily the regular schedule in an override mode that is based
on the selected one or more of the schedule override choices, the overriding step beginning at a
second time that is later than the first time based on the user responses provided by the user
interface at a second time;
~~wherein, the second time is later than the first time.~~

25. (currently amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the ~~modifying~~
~~step comprises the~~ second time is being later than the first time by a user selected ~~chosen~~ time
interval.

26. (currently amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein the ~~modifying~~
~~step comprises a chosen~~ user selected time interval is at least 10 minutes.

27. (currently amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein the ~~modifying~~
~~step comprises a chosen~~ user selected time interval is at least 30 minutes.

28. (currently amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein the ~~modifying~~
~~step comprises a chosen~~ user selected time interval is at least 1 hour.

29. (currently amended) The method according to claim 25, wherein the ~~modifying~~
~~step comprises a chosen~~ user selected time interval is at least 24 hours.

Appl. No. 10/726,247
Reply to Office action dated February 27, 2007

30. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the accepting step further comprises accepting a schedule override start time, end time or duration, and temperature, wherein the start time is the second time.

31. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the providing step comprises providing a schedule override choice of "Come Home Early".

32. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the providing step comprises providing a schedule override choice of "Come Home Late".

33. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the providing step comprises providing a schedule override choice of "Get Up Early".

34. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the providing step comprises providing a schedule override choice of "Stay Up Late".

35. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the providing step comprises providing a schedule override choice of "Stay Home".

36. (original) The method according to claim 24, wherein the providing step comprises providing a schedule override choice of "On Vacation".

37. (currently amended) A controller comprising:
 a programmable regular schedule; and
 a user interface, adapted and configured to provide one or more schedule override choices to a user, and accept one or more user responses to the one or more schedule override choices from the user at a first time;

wherein, the schedule is ~~modified~~ overridden beginning at a second time based on the user responses provided by the user interface, and the second time is later than the first time.

38. (currently amended) The controller according to claim 24, wherein the second time ~~is being~~ later than the first time by a user selected ~~chosen~~ time ~~interval~~.

39. (currently amended) The controller according to claim 38, wherein the user selected ~~chosen~~ time ~~interval~~ is at least 10 minutes.

40. (currently amended) The controller according to claim 38, wherein the user selected ~~chosen~~ time ~~interval~~ is at least 30 minutes.

41. (currently amended) The controller according to claim 38 wherein the user selected ~~chosen~~ time ~~interval~~ is at least 1 hour.

42. (currently amended) The controller according to claim 38, wherein the user selected ~~chosen~~ time ~~interval~~ is at least 24 hours.

43. (original) The controller according to claim 37, wherein the user interface accepts a schedule override start time, end time or duration, and temperature, wherein the start time is the second time.

44. (currently amended) A method of modifying a programmable regular HVAC schedule for a controller having a user interface, the method comprising the steps of:
providing a regular HVAC schedule for a controller having a user interface;
providing one or more schedule comfort override menu choices to a user via the user interface;

Appl. No. 10/726,247
Reply to Office action dated February 27, 2007

accepting a start time, end time or duration, and comfort temperature response to the one or more schedule comfort override choices from the user via the user interface at a first time; [[and]]

overriding modifying the regular HVAC schedule based on the user responses provided by the user interface, the overriding step beginning at a second time, wherein the second time is later than the first time; and

automatically returning to the regular HVAC schedule;

~~wherein, the second time is later than the first time by a chosen time interval.~~

45. (currently amended) The method according to claim 44, wherein one of the the ~~providing step comprises providing a schedule comfort override~~ menu choices is of “Come Home Early”.

46. (currently amended) The method according to claim 45, wherein one of the the ~~providing step comprises providing a schedule comfort override~~ menu choices is of “Get Up Early”.

47. (currently amended) The method according to claim 45, wherein one of the the ~~providing step comprises providing a schedule comfort override~~ menu choices is of “Stay Up Late”.

48. (currently amended) The method according to claim 45, wherein one of the the ~~providing step comprises providing a schedule comfort override~~ menu choices is of “Stay Home”.

49. (currently amended) The method according to claim 45, wherein one of the the ~~providing step comprises providing an energy savings~~ schedule comfort override menu choices is of “On Vacation”.

50. (currently amended) A method of modifying a programmable regular HVAC schedule for a controller having a user interface, the method comprising the steps of:

providing one or more schedule ~~energy-saving~~ override menu choices to a user via the user interface;

accepting a start time, end time or duration, and ~~a energy-saving~~ temperature response to the one or more ~~of the~~ schedule ~~comfort~~ override menu choices from the user via the user interface at a first time; and

overriding ~~modifying~~ the regular HVAC schedule in an override mode based on the user responses provided by the user interface, the overriding step beginning at a second time, wherein the override mode does not change the regular HVAC schedule;

~~wherein, the second time is later than the first time.~~

51. (currently amended) The method according to claim 50, wherein the overriding ~~modifying~~ step comprises the second time being later than the first time by a user selected ~~chosen~~ time interval.

52. (currently amended) The method according to claim 50, wherein the providing step comprises providing a schedule ~~energy-savings~~ override choice of "Come Home Late".

53. (currently amended) The method according to claim 50, wherein the providing step comprises providing a schedule ~~energy-savings~~ override choice of "On Vacation".

54. (currently amended) A method for controlling an HVAC system that is adapted to modify and control at least one environmental condition of an inside space ~~against in~~ accordance with a first set point, the method comprising:

deactivating at least a first part of the HVAC system to not modify and control at least one environmental condition of the inside space in accordance with the first set point;

monitoring the environmental condition in the inside space that the HVAC system is no longer modifying and controlling; and

automatically activating ~~[[the]]~~ at least the first ~~[[one]]~~ part of the HVAC system to again modify the environmental condition in the inside space if the environmental condition in the inside space passes a second set point, wherein the second set point is different than the first set point.

55. (currently amended) A method according to claim 54 wherein the at least one environmental condition is one or more of temperature ~~[[and]]~~ or humidity.

56. (original) A method according to claim 55 wherein the second set point is user selectable.

57. (original) A method for controlling an HVAC system that has a fan that normally operates during heating and/or cooling operations, the method comprising:

requesting a time indicator from a user;

over-riding the fan for a time corresponding to the time indicator provided by the user;

and

returning to normal fan operation after the time expires.

58. (currently amended) A method for controlling an HVAC system having a controller including a user interface, the HVAC system ~~[[that]]~~ is adapted to modify and control at least one environmental condition of an inside space of a structure, the structure having at least one window that opens and closes, the method comprising:

detecting an indication, based on user input into the user interface, that a window is or has been opened;

deactivating at least part of the HVAC system to not modify and control at least one environmental condition of the inside space;

detecting an indication, based on user input into the user interface, that the window is or has been closed;

activating the at least part of the HVAC system that was deactivated to again modify and control the at least one environmental condition of the inside space.

59-60. (canceled)

61. (original) A method according to claim 58 further comprising the step of providing an alarm if one or more environmental conditions falls outside of a predetermined range while the at least part of the HVAC system is deactivated.

62. (original) A method according to claim 61 wherein the alarm is provided when an inside temperature drifts beyond an open window temperature set point.

63. (original) A method according to claim 61 wherein the alarm is provided when an inside humidity level drifts beyond an open window humidity set point.

64. (original) A method according to claim 61 wherein the alarm is provided when an inside air quality falls outside of an open window air quality range.

65. (original) A method according to claim 61 wherein the alarm is provided when the barometric pressure drops by a predetermined amount.

66. (currently amended) A method for controlling an HVAC system that is adapted to modify and control an environmental condition of an inside space of a structure, the method comprising:

controlling ~~[[the]]~~ a first environmental condition using a first control set point;
sensing the first environmental condition outside of the structure; and

adjusting the first control set point if the first environmental condition outside of the structure passes a predetermined value.

67. (currently amended) A method according to claim 66 wherein the first environmental condition is temperature.

68. (currently amended) A method according to claim 66 wherein the first environmental condition is humidity.

69. (original) A method according to claim 67 wherein the first control set point is adjusted in a manner that reduces the load on the HVAC system.

70. (original) A method according to claim 67 wherein the first control set point is only allowed to be adjusted by a predetermined amount.

71. (original) A method for controlling an HVAC system that is adapted to modify and control an environmental condition of an inside space of a structure, the HVAC system having a duty cycle that varies with the environmental condition outside of the structure, the method comprising:

controlling the environmental condition in the inside space using a first control set point;
sensing the duty cycle of the HVAC system; and
adjusting the first control set point if the duty cycle of the HVAC system exceeds a predetermined value.